

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol, comprising:
 - at a data link provider, receiving from a data link user through an interface defined between the data link provider and the data link user, a first request to identify a medium access control type supported by the data link provider;
 - receiving at the data link provider from the data link user a second request to identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and
 - in response to said second request, enabling the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol and received at the data link user from the data link provider.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - in response to said first request, indicating to the data link user that the medium access control type is a type not registered with the interface.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling comprises:
 - sending the data link user an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a format of the communication protocol.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling comprises:
 - sending the data link user a set of data describing a format of the communication protocol.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling comprises:
 - making available to the data link user a set of processor executable instructions for parsing a communication formatted according to format of the communication

protocol.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium
2 storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a
method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol, the method
4 comprising:

at a data link provider, receiving from a data link user through an interface
6 defined between the data link provider and the data link user, a first request to identify a
medium access control type supported by the data link provider;
8 receiving at the data link provider from the data link user a second request to
identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and
10 in response to said second request, enabling the data link user to parse a
communication formatted according to the communication protocol and received at the
12 data link user from the data link provider.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for to
2 a communication protocol supported by a data link provider, comprising:

at the a data link user, through an interface defined between the data link user and
4 a data link provider, requesting the data link provider to identify a medium access control
type supported by the data link provider;
6 at the data link user, requesting the data link provider to identify a communication
protocol supported by the data link provider; and
8 at the data link user, receiving a description of a format of the communication
protocol from the data link provider information enabling the data link user to parse a
10 communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

2 receiving at the data link user, in response to said request to identify a medium
access control type, an indication that said medium access control type is not one of a
4 predetermined set of medium access control types registered with the interface.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said
2 receiving comprises:
4 receiving an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a said
format of the communication protocol.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said
2 receiving comprises:
4 receiving a set of data describing a said format of the communication protocol.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said
2 receiving comprises:
4 receiving access to a set of processor executable instructions for parsing the said
communication protocol.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium
2 storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a
method of adapting a data link user for to a communication protocol supported by a data
4 link provider, the method comprising:
at the a data link user, through an interface defined between the data link user and
6 a data link provider, requesting the data link provider to identify a medium access control
type supported by the data link provider;
8 at the data link user, requesting the data link provider to identify a communication
protocol supported by the data link provider; and
10 at the data link user, receiving a description of a format of the communication
protocol from the data link provider information enabling the data link user to parse a
12 communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for a
2 communication protocol supported by a data link provider, wherein the data link user and
data link provider communicate via an interface, comprising:
4 at the data link user, issuing a first request to the data link provider to identify a

medium access control type supported by the data link provider;

6 at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a first response comprising
an indication that the medium access control type is unknown to the interface;

8 at the data link user, issuing a second request to the data link provider to identify a
communication protocol supported by the data link provider for the medium access
10 control type; and

12 at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a second response enabling
the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication
protocol.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein:

2 said first request comprises the DLPI (Data Link Provider Interface) primitive
DL_INFO_REQ; and

4 said first response comprises the DLPI primitive DL_INFO_ACK with the
parameter dl_mac_type having the value DL_OTHER.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said second response
2 comprises an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a format of the
communication protocol.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said second response
2 comprises a set of data describing a format of the communication protocol.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said
2 second response comprises a set of processor executable instructions for parsing a
communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said
2 second response comprises access to a set of processor executable instructions, on the
data link provider, for parsing a communication formatted according to the
4 communication protocol.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium
2 storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a
method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol supported by a data
4 link provider, wherein the data link user and data link provider communicate via an
interface, the method comprising:
6 at the data link user, issuing a first request to the data link provider to identify a
medium access control type supported by the data link provider;
8 at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a first response comprising
an indication that the medium access control type is unknown to the interface;
10 at the data link user, issuing a second request to the data link provider to identify a
communication protocol supported by the data link provider for the medium access
12 control type; and
at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a second response enabling
14 the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication
protocol.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for adapting a data link user for a
2 communication protocol supported by data link user, comprising:
a data link provider configured to provide data link layer services;
4 a data link user configured to access said data link services; and
an extended implementation of DLPI (Data Link Provider Interface), in which:
6 said data link user is configured to request said data link provider to
identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and
8 said data link provider is configured to offer said data link user, in
response to said request, information for parsing enabling the data link user to
10 parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said data link provider
2 comprises a device driver for a communication interface device.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said data link user
2 comprises a snoop utility for parsing a communication received by said data link provider.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered
2 by said data link provider comprises an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document
describing a format of the communication protocol.

24. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered
2 by said data link provider comprises a set of data describing a format of the
communication protocol.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein said
2 information offered by said data link provider comprises a set of processor executable
instructions for parsing a communication formatted according to the communication
4 protocol.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein said
2 information offered by said data link provider enables said data link user to access, on
said data link provider, a set of processor executable instructions for parsing a
4 communication formatted according to the communication protocol.